

Twenty-Fifth Anniversary

OF

Knox Church

Morden, Man.

June 25th and 26th

1911

Present Session

REV. M. C. RUMBALL,

Moderator

NEIL FOX

Air & Sec.

R. SYPHER

I. GEORGE

T. MCNAUGHTON

I. R. BONNY

Managing Board

T. BALLAGH

C. MCCOROUODALE

L. WATSON

H. STODDART J. H. CONNER J. STIRTON

Secretary-Treasurer, w. CONNER

W. F. M. S.

PRESIDENT 1st vice-president 2nd vice-president SECRETARY

TREASURER.

MRS. S. E. PREST MRS M. C. RUMBALL MRS. F. B. STEWART MRS. IAS. ANDREW MRS: GEO, COCHRANE

W. H. M. S.

PRESIDENT 1st vice-president 2nd vice president

SECRETARY-TREASURER . -

MRS. S. E. PREST MRS, M. C. RUMBALL MRS. F B. STEWART MRS GEO, COCHRANE

Ladies' Aid

PRESIDENT VICE-PRESIDENT SECRETARY

MRS. M. C. RUMBALL MRS. L. WATSON MRS. J. H. CONNER MRS. F. B. BLYTHE

TREASURER

Men's Missionary Committee

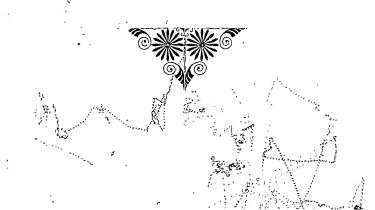
CHAIRMAN - J. H. BLACK
SECRETARY-TREASURER - JAS. STIRTON
THOS. MCNAUGHTON JAS. ANDREW
DR. MCCONNELL - W. LIVINGSTON

Sunday School

SUPERINTENDENT - NEIL FOX
ASST.-SUPERINTENDENT - T. MCNAUGHTON
SECRETARY - L. WATSON
ASST.-SECRETARY - GEO. COCHRANE
TREASURER - JAS. ANDREW
LIBRARIAN - - J. H. CONNER
ASST.-LIBRARIAN - C. A. SCOTT

Mission Band

PRESIDENT - - MRS. RUMBALL
VICE-PRESIDENT - - L. MEIKLE
SECRETARY - - ELGA BELL
TREASURER - - ELSIE MILNE

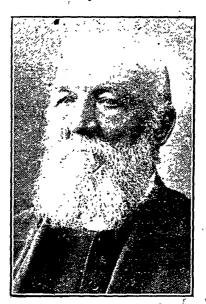


25th ANNIVERSARY

June 25 and 26, 1911

IN the early settlement of the part of the country, now known as the Morden District, three prospective cities were started. Stephen, a little to the east, Mountain City, about five miles south west and the incorporated town of Nelson, eight miles northwest. Great were the expectations of the citizens of these "cities," especially those of the young town, where a splendid brick town hall was erected. "But the best laid plans of mice and men gang aft agley," so in this case. The C. P. R. ran its Pembina Iranch about halfway between Mountain City and Nelson, They decided to locate a station near Cheval Creek. They also obtained a town site from the Morden family who owned the greater part of the land where Morden now stands. This dashed to the ground the hopes of the people of the three burgs mentioned. But nothing daunted the enterprising citizens said, "If the railroad will not come to us we will go to the railroad." There was a general rush to the new. town and few places can boast of so rapid a growth, The three places were moved bodily to the new town. Nothing was left save the unoccupied town hall, a notel building and the Presbyterian church at Nelson, and the Presbyterian church at Mountain City, the cellars and the wells The new Town-site had been a heavy oak forest. Many of the large trees were preserved. The smaller oaks rapidly grew. The citizens planted large numbers of Elm, maple, cottonwoods and evergreens. They laid out beautiful lawns planted shrubs and fruit trees, a large number of fine buildings were erected. The proximity of gravel enabled the council to gravel all the streets. Morden now is the prettiest, cleanest and healthiest town in the plains. Nestled at the foot of the Pembina hills, with a fringe of timber to the north. Morden possesses many climatic advantages not enjoyed by other, western towns.

Before these changes took place the church had been at work in the whole district. In the year 1876, shortly after the union of the Presbyterian churches in Canada, the Rev. H. J. Borthwick, A. M., settled



REV. H. J BORTHWICK, A. M.

with his family at Mountain City. Mr. Borthwick is a man of many parts, for he still lives and preaches often, though in his 87th year. He is a fine scholar

and good preacher. He had taught high school in Ontario and for some time was Inspector of Schools. He was ordained at Hamilton, Ontario, and began his ministry in the Auld Kirk at Chelsea, Quebec, on the Gatineau River. Afterward spending some time as

Missionary to the Lumbermen.

When he began work in Manitoba, if he had not Wesley's Parish, he had as much of it as one man could well be expected to look after. It extended from the Boyne River to the Southern National Boundary and from near the Red River to the Turtle Mountains, about thirty-two hundred square miles. There are over 30 congregations in the territory ministered to by the Pioneer Presbyterian Pastor of Southern Manitoba. Many are the interesting tales the veteran can tell of the early days. He would gather a few children together, teach them through the week, preach on Sunday, then off to another settlement to do the same.

Thus he covered the ground. Fording streams, wading sloughs, facing storms, he carried the gospel message to the lonely settler. "One night, caught in a bitter blizzard, he passed the night, with his faithful horse, "Tom," beside a hay stack. His scotch persistence and strong physique carried him through all difficulties.

In those days there was only one Presbytery in the West, viz., Manitoba. A trip to Presbytery meant a "buckboard" journey to Winnipeg. Soon congregations sprang up throughout Mr. Borthwick's Parish. Other Ministers and Missionaries joined in the Work. Mr. Borthwick was regularly inducted into the Congregation of Mountain City and Associate Stations in 1881. One of these Stations was at the home of Mr. Conner, sr., known as Minnewashta, about one mile from the centre of the present town. The location was an ideal one. There are few more beautiful spots in Manitoba. To the west lay the lovely valley formed by Cheval Creek, to the east a

vast and fertile plain extending to the Red River, dotted here and there with the homes of the early settlers, many Mennonite settlements being distinctly visible. It was here W. Coates, Duncan Black, John Black and their families, with the McCorquodales, McAulays, McGregors and others attended Divine Service. A little later the service was held in the log school where Colin McCorquodale taught.

In 1882 Rev. D. G. Cameron became the settled pastor of the Nelson field, where he labored till 1884, at which time his Nelson congregation was rapidly moving south. A little earlier Mr. Borthwick demitted the charge of Mountain City and took charge of St. Audrew's, old Darlingford, and Barclay District. Among the missionaries who supplied Mountain City field was Mr. W. Farquharson, a student of Knox College, and he it was who preached the first sermon to the Presbyterian Congregation in Morden. The Service was held in a room over a Carpenter's shop It was much disturbed by a man sharpening a saw in the shop below. Another Missionary, preaching at the log school, spoke such broad Scotch that some of the unlearned thought he was swearing.

In 1884 the Presbytery of Rock Lake was formed with Mr. Borthwick as its first Moderator. Rev. W. R. Ross was Clerk and Rev. Jas. Farquharson Convener of the Home Mission Committee. On the resignation of Mr. Cameron from Nelson, August 12th, 1884. Nelson, Morden, Clegg and Mountain City were joined as a mission field. In September Rev. J. Brown was appointed Missionary, Mr. Borthwick to be Moderator. Mr. J. R. Bonny started a Union Sunday School in the building now used as a pump shop, corner of Stephen and Nelson Streets. Mrs. J. B McLaren took charge of the singing. In 1885 the Trustees of the Methodist Church took in the situation and had their Church moved to Morden. The Rev. W. W. Colpits, who was in charge as soon as

the Church was ready, held regular Services morning and evening. The free use of the Church was offered the Presbyterians for an afternoon service, which was gladly accepted.

In 1885, on October 21st, the Presbytery of Rock Lake met in J. B. McLaren's office. A Grant was asked from the Church and Manse Building Board to assist the Congregation of Knox Church to build a Church. In March 1885 the Congregations of Morden and Mountain City gave a call to the Rev. M. McKenzie, which was accepted, and he was inducted May 6th, Rev. H. J. Borthwick preaching the induction sermon.



REV. MALCOLM MCKENZIE.

Mr. McKenzie was born in Broddick, Island of

Arrau, in 1835. He was educated at Glasgow and came to Canada in 1862. He held important congregations in Ontario. Quebec and New Brunswick. Early in 1885 he was appointed Missionary to Rat Portage, now Kenora, where he remained till called to Morden and Mountain City. The first meeting of the Session was held July 8th, 1886. The Members present were Rev. M. McKenzie, Moderator; and Messrs. Thomas Duncan, Neil Fox, Robt. McKay and J. R. Bonny, Elders; Mr. J. H. Fraser being absent. Those still living are Mr. Fox and Mr. Bonny,

The first communion was held August 1st, 1886, when twenty members of the Church partook of the symbols of Christ's broken body and shed blood. Of these only nine now reside in Morden. Mr. Bonny had brought the Presbyterians of his Sunday School



MR. NEIL FOX

to the Church, the Methodists having gone to their own Church. One of the first acts of the session was

to unite with the teachers and officers and draw up a Constitution for the School. Under this Constitution the School still works. The Sunday School has always held a prominent place in the life of the Congregation. At first the Elders took turns at being Superintendent. Mr. Neil Fox, the present Superintendent, has for about twenty three years held the position, save one year, when Mr. A McLeod acted. It is largely due to his efforts that the School has been such a success. Indeed, in all the Church's work Mr. Fox has taken a prominent and effective part.

In March. 1892, after six years of faithful and



. REV. M. C. RUMBALL, B. A.

effective work, Mr. McKenzie resigned and soon after was called to Tyne Valley, Prince Edward Island. In

1896, when on his way to the meeting of Presbytery, he died suddenly at Summerside. His body was brought to Morden, where with his partner in toils, who died last year, it rests in Hillside Cemetery. One of his co-Presbyters speaks of him as a man of genial disposition, a faithful servant in whom a deep interest in man's highest welfare and in the advancement of the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour was ever manifested.

In 1892 Mountain City was separated from Morden and in November of that year the Congregation gave a call to Rev. M. C. Rumball, B.A. of High Bluff and Prospect, which was accepted. The induction tcok place December 27th. Mr. Rumball is a graduate in Arts of Victoria University, where he carried, off the gold medal in Natural Science. He took his Theological training in Knox College, Toronto, grad uating in 1889. In October of that year he was set ed at High Bluff and Prospect. The first year of his pastorate at Morden the Church was enlarged and seated at a cost of \$2,600.00. During the eighteen years Mr. Rumball has been in/Morden, he has taken a prominent part in all that was for the good of the The congregation, in spite of the fact that it has lost heavily by removals, is still one of the strong congregations of the Church.





MR. WM. CONNER, Secretary-Treasurer

Mr. Conner has been Secretary-Treasurer of Knox Church for about fifteen years continuously, and has done his work gratuitously and with despatch. Much of the financial success of the congregation has been due to his untiring efforts in this connection.